



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **May 15, 2018**

Attendees:			Visitors:
Chairman	Paul Funch	X	Ryan McMeniman (prospective GTC)
Vice Chair	Olin Lathrop	X	Wendy Good
Secretary	Tim Newman	X	Frank Loewenstein (NEFF)
Members	Wanfang Murray		Ray Lyons (NEFF)
	Stephen Legge	X	Kevin Barrett (prospective GTC)
	Jason Remillard	X	
	Jim Peregoy		
	Dan Patnaude	X	
	Darcy Schultz (arrived at 8:15 pm)	X	
	Bob Ordemann	X	
	(Vacant)		

1. Call to Order

Funch called the meeting to order with members listed above present at 7:02 pm.

Approval of minutes – March 20 – Lathrop moved to approve the minutes and Patnaude seconded.

- Approved unanimously

Approval of minutes – April 17– Patnaude moved to approve the minutes and Ordemann seconded.

- Approved with one abstention (Lathrop)

2. Reports / Old Business

a) Guided Hikes report. Lathrop and Funch reported on completed and upcoming hikes

- Funch indicated that Prescott guided hikes are being well received.

b) Sign status

- Lathrop reported on progress with measuring for new signs. Still work to do and will report next month. Lathrop already has approval for cost so he can order the signs once done

- c) Lathrop reported on work to review a connection between Wharton Plantation and the Power Lines.
 - Investigating new route to avoid an extensive crossing over private land owned by the Blacks. The new route might, depending on the height of the pond under the power lines, briefly touch the Black property at its westernmost corner.
- d) Trail Project Reports
 - Funch discussed a project being undertaken by The Groton Inn to pull together promotional material. GTC will contribute some information on interesting ecotourism destinations in Groton and looks to develop a relationship with The Groton Inn.
 - Reviewed the list of the points of interest
 - Town Forest - 3.4 mile race course was marked with new aluminum “arrow” markers
 - Ordemann reported a lot of clearing off of trees from trails around town was accomplished this month
 - Markers – Lathrop suggested adding a “no entry” sign to our available markers to help with future marking initiatives
- e) Website and Map Status
 - Remillard reported some progress on his mapping work related to short hikes

3. Discussions with NEFF

- Introductions and overview led by Loewenstein
 - Reference to Memorandum of Agreement between GTC and NEFF Inc, dated 2012
 - Ways of continuing to work together furthering the conservation and recreational value of the NEFF managed land
 - Currently 1.1 million acres of easements overall in New England after 74 years as an organization
 - Some new easement projects and land acquisitions ongoing as part of continuing conservation works
 - Promotion of sustainable Forestry
 - Building design initiatives looking at building technologies utilizing wood: More information found at: Builditwithwood.org
 - NEFF annual meeting is on June 9th – public meeting in Littleton
 - Hemlock Woolly Adelgid – for information Dave Orwig (Harvard Forest), Joe Pilkington (Professor at UMASS)
- Trail in Kemp Woods – issue with Fish and Wildlife (Mass Wildlife) - trails not to be maintained per Mass Wildlife trail policy. Problems with ATVs persist. Sensitive - Marble Salamander identified in the location – MA threatened species.
- Keyes Wood – recently logged – trails kept open during logging and removal of some invasives to improve the access.
- GTC indicated how easy it was to work with NEFF when it comes to access approvals and working together to improve access to land. NEFF confirmed how pleased they are of the efforts of the GTC in maintaining trails and access for the public good.
- Wharton Plantation – active logging will continue, but land will continue to be accessible.
- Taisey land – project to put in an accessible trail – no permission granted until land sale is assured, so project on hold. Discussions are continuing. Loewenstein made reference to Conservation Land Tax credit from the State that may be of interest to Mr. Taisey.

Accessible trails are very warmly received by NEFF.

- Since 2012, issue of chain saws and liability, also Town of Groton concerned re liability on Town land. Anyone who operates a chain saw from GTC is safety certified.
 - Groton Place, when operating chains saws, please notify Rick Muehlke (rvmuehlke@gmail.com)

4. Discussions / New Business

Discussions with applicants for open seat on GTC

- Funch discussed the process with the committee for selecting a new member
 - Legge made a motion to adopt the process as described by Funch, seconded by Patnaude. Approved unanimously
- Barrett provide some information about himself for the selection process
- McMeniman provided some information about himself for the selection process
- Funch asked the same questions of each candidate and each member of the Committee was given an opportunity to ask additional questions.
- There was then a vote in line with the process and the result as announced by Funch was in favor of Barrett. Each member of the committee then indicated who they voted for and made a comment on their rationale.
- Ordemann made a motion to recommend to the Town Manager that Barrett be appointed to the Trails Committee. Seconded by Lathrop.
 - Approved unanimously
 - The committee noted that this was a difficult decision as both were excellent candidates.
 - It should be noted that McMeniman offered his marketing skills to the committee and we would welcome his input and future commitment to GTC. His application to a future opening would be warmly welcomed.
- Riverfest – June 10 – Funch asked for volunteers to confirm attendance.

5. Adjournment

Lathrop moved to adjourn at 9:20 pm, Remillard seconded.

- Approved unanimously